3 fatally shot in Mo., gunman remains at large

By CHRIS BLANK Associated Press © 2010 The Associated Press

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HOLTS SUMMIT, Mo. — Authorities searched Wednesday for a gunman after three people were killed and another wounded in central Missouri.

University Hospital in Columbia, where one of the victims was in critical condition, was on lockdown because authorities feared the gunman could show up. The University of Missouri-Columbia said no other buildings on campus were affected.

"We believe the rest of the campus is safe at this time," university police chief, Jack Watring, said.

The Callaway County Sheriff's Department said the same man is suspected in the deaths of Jeffrey Werdehausen, 46, of Holts Summit; Eugene Pinet, 48; and Jackie Pinet, 57. Details about when, where and how they were killed were not released. Police planned a news conference later Wednesday.

KRCG-TV reported that authorities believe the suspect may be armed with a high-powered rifle. Werdehausen's wife, Gina Werdehausen, 41, was wounded in the attack Tuesday night and was the victim at the hospital, authorities said.

Werdehausen's niece, Shanna Wyatt, 34, said Gina Werdehausen was shot in the neck after she heard dogs barking at her home and went outside to investigate.

Wyatt said the suspect then went inside and shot Jeffrey Werdehausen, the father of two children and two step-children. "It's completely unexpected," Wyatt, also of Holts Summit, said. "It's a very small community. He has a lot of friends."
Scare at MU hospital prompts false rumors of shooter on campus

By MARA ROSE WILLIAMS

Panic traveled as fast as a tweet and a click among University of Missouri students, faculty and parents when word of a shooting and a gunman roaming campus spread today.

It turns out, the report was false.

What really happened was that University Hospital in Columbia was locked down about 1 p.m. after reports that a violent person might be attempting to enter the hospital.

An electronic University of Missouri emergency alert just before 2 p.m. said, "The lockdown was initiated to ensure the safety of patients, visitors and staff," and no other buildings on campus were affected at that time.

Even before police could inform The University News Bureau about the lockdown or officials could send the emergency alert, rumors of a shooting had swept the campus via text and tweets.

"We get out the information as soon as possible," said Mary Jo Banken, a MU spokesperson. But before she could report the actual situation, "every phone in my office was ringing and callers were asking about a shooting," Banken said.

"This is happening to us now with every story we have on campus. I just don’t know how to control it, I wish I did."

Banken said the university has a person on campus monitoring web traffic, Facebook communications and tweets about the university, but said, "I don’t think there is any way of telling where electronic messages came from," such as the bogus one about a shooting.

Hospital officials were concerned that the suspect in a triple homicide in Callaway County might go after a fourth victim who had survived the shooting and was being treated at University Hospital.

Law enforcement officers from Callaway, Cole, and Boone counties, Jefferson City and the Missouri State Highway Patrol were searching for a Holts Summit man in his late 20s in connection with the shootings.
Killed in the Holts Summit shootings today were Jeffrey James Werdehausen, 46, Eugene Allen Pinet, 48, and Jackie Lee Pinet, 57. Another victim, Gina Marie Werdehausen, 41 was wounded.

The Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad issued a warning regarding the suspect, saying anyone having had "negative contact" with him in the past should contact Sergeant Robert Bruchsaler at 573-592-2442 regarding their safety.

The suspect may be driving a brown or black Dodge truck, or a silver 2000 Pontiac Bonneville SE 4 door, Missouri registration SC1S58.

According to court records, he was charged earlier this month with theft and had bonded out of jail.
Police search for suspect in three slayings in mid-Missouri

FROM STAFF REPORTS | Posted: Thursday, October 28, 2010 1:00 am

FULTON, Mo. - Police were scouring central Missouri on Wednesday for a man they called a person of interest in overnight shootings that left three people dead and one wounded.

Police said they were seeking Joshua William Maylee and warned that anyone who has had "negative" contact with him to call police.

Maylee was being sought in the shooting deaths of Jeffrey Werdehausen, 46, of Holts Summit, Eugene Piner, 48, and Jackie Piner, 57. Authorities said there were two separate crime scenes but did not release details about when and where the people were killed.

Werdehausen’s wife, 41-year-old Gina Werdehausen, also was shot and was in critical condition at University Hospital in Columbia.

Sgt. Robert Bruchsalter of the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad said Wednesday that the gunman used a high-powered rifle and a handgun. Speaking to reporters outside the Callaway County Sheriff Department in Fulton, Bruchsalter said authorities believe the gunman acted alone.

Bruchsalter did not discuss a specific motive but said police believe the shootings were not random and that the victims were targeted. He said the reason they may have been targeted was part of the investigation.

"They are known to this individual. The public can relax, he is not out there randomly shooting people," Bruchsalter said.

A woman who answered a phone number listed for Maylee identified herself as his mother, Paula Cook. She said she had not heard from her son, whom she described as a "great kid."

"I pray to God it’s not true," she said of any involvement by her son, who she said travels from job to job operating a backhoe and other large equipment.

Law officers say Maylee is about 6 feet tall and weighs around 180 pounds. He has blue eyes and is balding. They described him as a young man but did not provide an age for Maylee. He may be driving a brown or black Dodge truck or a four-door silver Pontiac Bonneville.
Shanna Wyatt, 34, a niece of Jeffrey Werdehausen, said the assailant came to her uncle's home Tuesday night. She said that when Gina Werdehausen heard the dogs barking and went outside to investigate, she was shot in the neck. Wyatt said the person then went inside and shot Jeffrey Werdehausen, the father of two children and two stepchildren.

"It's completely unexpected," said Wyatt, also of Holts Summit. "It's a very small community. He has a lot of friends."

Holts Summit has a population of about 3,800 people and is northeast of the state Capitol in Jefferson City. It is in Callaway County, a largely rural county just north of the Missouri River and east of Columbia.

The University of Missouri-Columbia said the hospital was placed on lockdown out of fear the gunman could show up. No other buildings on campus were affected. Two grade schools in Jefferson City, near Holts Summit, also were on lockdown.

Maylee was charged earlier this month in Callaway County with theft. Details were not immediately available.

University Hospital in Columbia, Mo., stepped up security today following a triple murder near Holts Summit, Mo., in Callaway County, authorities said.

MU Police Chief Jack Watring said the police began screening people at doors of the hospital starting at noon because they believe a violent person may try to enter the hospital in an attempt to hurt a woman taken to the hospital today after the killings this morning.

"The campus is safe," Watring said.

One of the victims has been identified as Jeffrey J. Werdehausen, 46. His wife Gina Werdehausen, 41, is being treated at the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Callaway County sheriff's deputies identified other two victims are Eugene Allen Piner, 48, and Jackie Lee Piner, 57.

No other details about the killings were immediately available.

The Mid Missouri Major Case Squad is seeking suspect Joshua William Maylee, 23, in the killings. Authorities said Maylee was last seen with a high-powered rifle and driving a brown or black Dodge truck or a four-door silver 2000 Pontiac Bonneville SE with license plate SC1 SSS.

Authorities warned that anyone who has had "negative contact" with Maylee should leave the area and call police.

Maylee's criminal history includes a theft charge out of Callaway County; he was released from jail Oct. 19 after posting bail in that case.
Murder suspect sought; hospital on precautionary lockdown

Photo by Joshua A. Bickel A Callaway County Sheriff's officer stands Wednesday at the entrance to the residence of Jeffrey and Gina Werdehausen in south Callaway County near Holts Summit. Callaway County sheriff's investigators and the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad are searching for Joshua William Maylee, a suspect in the deaths of Jeffrey Werdehausen, 46; Eugene A. Pinet, 48; and Jackie L. Pinet, 57; and the shooting of Gina Werdehausen, 41, who was taken to University Hospital with injuries. The shootings took place Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, and the victims were shot with a high-powered rifle and a handgun, officials said.

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Published October 27, 2010 at 1:26 p.m.
Updated October 28, 2010 at 7:39 a.m.

University Hospital was locked down Wednesday after officials feared that a man suspected in three Callaway County murders might seek access to the hospital. The suspect is believed to be targeting victims as a way to "settle scores," officials said.
At a news conference Wednesday afternoon, Sgt. Robert Bruchsalcr of the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad was vague on details of the murders. However, he explained that the squad is telling anyone who might have had negative interactions with the suspect, Joshua William Maylee, to contact them. He said about 100 people have reported concerns about interactions with Maylee, and those people are being advised to find safe shelter.

Bruchsalcr described a potential motive for the shootings as “possibly settling scores,” although they do not believe the suspect is following any kind of list of potential victims to target.

One victim who was shot but survived was taken to University Hospital, which went on "lockdown" around noon Wednesday. Patients, visitors and staff have continued to have access to the hospital but were being screened as they entered and exited. Employees were encouraged to wear name badges, and guards were stationed at each entry.

Authorities are looking for Maylee, 23, in connection with the three murders. The Callaway County Sheriff's Department said the dead include Jeffrey J. Werdehausen, 46; Eugene A. Pinct, 48; and Jackie L. Pinct, 57.

Werdehausen's wife, Gina M. Werdehausen, 41, also was shot and was taken to University Hospital. She was in stable condition Wednesday evening, Bruchsalcr said.

Bruchsalcr confirmed that University Hospital was locked down on the "remote possibility" that the suspect pursues the victim at the hospital.

"There's no indication that he's even in that county or anywhere near the hospital," said Bruchsalcr. "It's just standard procedure for the hospital to be doing what they're doing."

No other buildings on campus are affected at this time.

"We believe the rest of campus is safe at this time," MU Police Chief Jack Watring said. "We have no reason to believe that this individual will seek access to any other building on campus."

Bruchsalcr said he expected the hospital lockdown would last until the suspect is found, and hospital spokeswoman Mary Jenkins confirmed late Wednesday afternoon that the lockdown likely would continue through Thursday morning. Employees wanting an escort to their cars overnight can call 882-7147 or go to the hospital security office, she said.

The shootings took place Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, Bruchsalcr said, although he did not give any more specific details about the times. Both occurred in south Callaway County near Holts Summit. The victims were shot with a high-powered rifle and a handgun, he said.

This afternoon, sheriff's investigators were working at the scene of the Werdehausen home, on County Road 488 east of Holts Summit, and at the Pinct's home, on Heartnut Road west of Holts Summit.
Maylee was described as being 6 feet tall and 180 pounds, balding and blue-eyed. He might be driving a four-door silver 2000 Pontiac Bonneville with Missouri license plate SC1558. A truck that had been believed to be connected to Maylee has been found. Anyone with information about Maylee is asked to contact the major case squad at (573) 592-2442.

Bruchsalier said investigators believe the suspect was acting alone and that they had received "zero contact" from the public regarding possible sightings of Maylee by Wednesday evening. He said the suspect has family across Mid-Missouri and that they have been cooperative in the investigation.

Online court records show Maylee is also a suspect in a recent felony theft case in Callaway County. Bruchsalier would not comment specifically on Maylee's criminal history but said, "It is my understanding there are current investigations ongoing in multiple jurisdictions."

A woman who answered a phone number listed for Maylee identified herself as his mother, Paula Cook. She said she had not heard from her son, whom she described as a "great kid."

"I pray to God it's not true," she said of any involvement by her son, who she said travels from job to job operating a backhoe and other large equipment.

Shanna Wyatt, 34, a niece of Jeffrey Werdehausen, said the assailant came to her uncle's home Tuesday night. She said that when Gina Werdehausen heard the dogs barking and went outside to investigate, she was shot in the neck. Wyatt said the person then went inside and shot Jeffrey Werdehausen, the father of two children and two stepchildren.

"It's completely unexpected," said Wyatt, also of Holts Summit. "It's a very small community. He has a lot of friends."
Lockdown spurs rash of rumors on Twitter

By Janese Silvey

Published October 27, 2010 at 4:50 p.m.

Coly Gergen was waiting to speak to a sociology advisor at the University of Missouri when he began reading Twitter updates about an alleged gunman on campus.

The information seemed to be coming from credible sources: Two of the initial tweeters were journalism students, said Gergen, a senior sociology major. So, he didn’t think twice about posting what he was hearing.

“Gunman loose on campus,” he typed on the social network. “Seeing reports of University Hospital on lockdown. Stay safe, #Mizzou & #CoMo.”

University Hospital was, indeed, on lockdown Wednesday afternoon after a string of murders in Callaway County. The sole survivor was transported to University Hospital, and officials feared suspect Joshua Maylee would track her down. In reality, though, there’s no indication Maylee was on campus.

Gergen has nearly 2,000 people following his Twitter account, and word of an alleged gunman and the hospital’s lockdown spread quickly. By 2:30 p.m., “University Hospital” had been tweeted so many times it was a “trending topic” on Twitter.

For those not familiar, Twitter is a social site that allows people to share real-time information. Users are limited to 140 characters in each update, and trends are set when enough users’ tweets include specific words.

By Wednesday afternoon, Twitter was full of inaccurate information about an alleged gunman and shots fired on campus. Tweets from out-of-town Mizzou friends and fans sent cyber prayers and thoughts to students. Several tweets even stated that four were killed on campus, which was clearly inaccurate.

The worry began when a University Hospital spokesperson sent an e-mail to media saying administrators there had reason to believe a “violent individual may seek access to University Hospital.” Spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said the message was based on conversations with MU police.
Out-of-town media outlets who didn’t get the e-mail and are not familiar with why the hospital was being locked down as a precautionary measure were reading via Twitter reports of the crazed campus gunman and his supposed victims.

“We have had St. Louis and Kansas City media calling us because they heard these outrageous rumors,” MU Spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said.

Debunking those rumors slowed down the communication process because it took her time away from finding out what was actually going on.

“What we are trying to do is get the correct information as fast as we can,” Banken said. “It is essentially we have correct information before putting out a statement. Unfortunately, what happens in the meantime before we can confirm and send out correct information, rumors are going rampant. Then, we get into a situation where we’re responding to outrageous rumors rather than working on getting the facts.”

Gergen kept his Twitter account updated with the latest information, tweeting several times later that there was no gunman on campus. In hindsight, Gergen, who’s also studying strategic communication, said he should have considered using different wording to assure his followers the information hadn’t been confirmed. While he realizes Twitter isn’t a reliable news source, he said he’s realized that others do read the feeds as completely factual.

Unlike some Twitter users who condemned MU for not sending out an emergency alert sooner, Gergen said he thought the university acted appropriately. Sending an emergency alert when no one was in immediate danger would have caused even more panic, he said.

Rather, he said, MU leaders might have considered sending out an e-mail letting students and staff know the basics of what was happening with the promise to update them when new information became available.

He also questioned whether MU should have someone following Twitter on a regular basis “so they’re aware of what’s gaining steam and they can put out the embers before they become flames.”
Twitter incites rumors about University Hospital lockdown

COLUMBIA — It seems to have started with a tweet at about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday: “#911 Corrections: University Hospital is on lockdown; gunman on the loose.”

For roughly the next hour and a half, retweets, text messages, phone calls and hurried conversations at MU helped the tweet become a full-fledged rumor. At one point, another terrifying rumor took hold via Twitter: that shots had been fired in Virginia Avenue parking garage.

The fact was, there was no gunman on campus. At noon, University Hospital, and then at 12:30 p.m., Truman Veterans Hospital were locked down as a precaution in connection with the search for a suspect in three homicides in Callaway County. Authorities were concerned the gunman in those cases might try to gain access to University Hospital, where a survivor of one of the shootings was being treated.

The lockdown was announced in a variety of ways, including a campus-wide e-mail, a Twitter message and notifications on the MU Alert page and MU homepage. But the campuswide text alert system was never used.

The text message alert is used with discretion, said MU spokesman Christian Basi. He explained that not every e-mail alert is accompanied by a text alert.

When asked why the text alert system was not used, Basi said: “We feel the tools we used in this situation were appropriate.”

MU Alert announced the lockdown via Twitter at about 1:30 p.m., almost two hours after the lockdown at University Hospital. At about 3:30 p.m., the MU Alert system delivered a tweet to dispel the unsubstantiated rumors.

It read: “We are releasing information as quickly as possible; it’s important to check facts first. Many rumors that are not true are circulating.”

The MU Alert system began using its Twitter page in April of 2009. Before today, there were only two tweets on the page. The rest of MU Alert’s seven tweets were posted today about the lockdown situation.

Students sign up for the text alerts through MyZou. Judging by the Twitter reaction, scores of Twitter users felt the university’s decision to not use the text alert system was a mistake. Most
wanted to know why the tweeting public was notified but not students who'd signed up for text alerts.

One of the tweets read, "I think @MUalert failed us today. They should have updated everyone at noon when it happened. Then there wouldn't be all these crazy rumors."

Another respondent tweeted, "I'm registered for the MU Alert e-mails, but I never received word about today's lockdown at University Hospital. Nice. Twitter wins."

A few Twitter users tried to redirect the conversation toward what was known. One tweeter posted the following: "The ability to post a Tweet doesn't make everyone a journalist. Please confirm B4 you post. NO SHOOTING at UM Hospital."

With the proliferation of social media use, Basi acknowledged that difficulties emerge with verifying information.

"It is definitely a challenge with social media, especially Twitter and Facebook," Basi said. "We try to get information out that is correct, accurate and that dispels false rumors as quickly as possible."

Basi said MU has to be more intent than ever on truth and verification.

"It may take a bit longer to verify because we tend to see more unsubstantiated information being broadcast and posted on social media, and that tends to generate phone calls to administrative and enforcement agency offices seeking clarification, which can delay the process," he said. "But we have to verify and double-check with sources."

"We hope that as the information does get out, that people will re-tweet the information," he said.
Fallout intensifies over MU students' arrests during football celebration

By JASON NOBLE

JEFFERSON CITY | Often when students get arrested on campus, their cause is a serious one — war, injustice or maybe even rising tuition.

For the “Fauror Field 30,” the cause was football and the moment was one of celebration.

At the height of the University of Missouri’s collective euphoria over beating top-ranked Oklahoma last Saturday — and as thousands of spectators poured out of the stands and onto the gridiron — campus police nabbed the 30, handcuffed them and cited them for trespassing.

University officials maintain that entering the field posed serious safety risks and that fans had ample warning of what would happen.

But the arrests have enflamed students, parents, alumni and even the area’s state senator. They’re calling the university’s actions unfair, hypocritical and worse.

“My view of the situation is complete and total outrage,” said Bonnie Deem of St. Charles, whose son, Chris Deem, was among those arrested.

Sen. Kurt Schaefer, a Columbia Republican, said he wants those arrested to perform community service rather than face criminal charges. “This is selective prosecution,” he said. “It’s a problem to single out just those 30 for arrest.”

But for now, the university is moving toward prosecution. University spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said Tuesday the cases would be turned over to the city of Columbia prosecutor’s office, which will then decide how to proceed with charges.

Banken did not return numerous calls seeking additional comment on Wednesday.

An official at the prosecutor’s office said it had not received any cases involving trespassing at the stadium and typically doesn’t receive them until 10 to 14 days after tickets are written. First-degree trespassing is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $500 and imprisonment of up to six months.
Also upset with the arrests is the Missouri Students Association, the undergraduate student-government organization on campus.

“We have to stand up for the students,” MSA President Tim Noce was quoted in the Columbia Missourian newspaper.

Chris Deem, a sophomore majoring in business and one of the Faurot 30, recalled watching the game from near the back of the student section at Memorial Stadium and following the crowd after the game ended.

But he said he didn’t even make it onto the playing field before a police officer placed him under arrest. When he asked the officer why he was being arrested when so many other fans were milling about the field, Deem said the officer replied that “he didn’t have that many handcuffs.”

Deem said he was taken to a holding area outside the stadium, photographed and ticketed before being allowed to leave.

He said he hasn’t heard anything from the university or the city prosecutor’s office since. His mother said she was told by university administrators this week that the students will be prosecuted for trespassing and fined between $100 and $150.

“I don’t think it’s really fair to arrest 30 people when 30,000 are out on the field,” Chris Deem said. “How can you say 30 people did something wrong, but not everyone else?”

The arrest leaves Deem, who his mother said has a 4.0 GPA, nervous about his prospects after graduation. An employer could run a background check and find a conviction without the context of an exuberant college football game.

“I don’t want them to see a first-degree trespassing charge,” Deem said of prospective employers. “They could think that means anything.”

While Schaefer believes those arrested should face some punishment, the legislator is calling for some “leniency.”

“I’m not saying drop everything,” he said. “I’m saying don’t process them through the criminal justice system ... and give them a potential criminal mark on their permanent record.”

Schaefer said he met Wednesday with “university officials,” whom he wouldn’t identify, and came away hopeful that they’ll “do the reasonable thing.”

However, university spokeswoman Banken said earlier that rules against entering the field need to be enforced.

“While we do understand the emotion felt in the stadium on Saturday night, we simply cannot ignore our safety policies and procedures and in doing so inadvertently put students at risk,” she said.
Rules against coming on the field are made clear both in writing on game tickets and through public address announcements at the stadium, she noted. Not enforcing them would “set a dangerous precedent for future MU events.”

Immediately following the game, however, officials lowered the goal posts to the field. Revelers were allowed to carry the goal posts out of the stadium and across campus to a downtown bar, where they reportedly were cut into pieces for souvenirs.

In a story Monday in The Kansas City Star, Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden explained that his staff had expected fans to storm the field.

“It’s an historic moment. You sense the emotion. You know what’s going to be happening. Your staff is ready to go. But you just let them come on,” Alden said.

Schaefer said that admission raises doubt as to whether the fans’ presence on the field actually constituted trespassing.

“There’s a real question if they really were trespassing,” said Schaefer, who is a lawyer. “It’s legal if there was an invitation onto the field.”

Accusations also have been leveled that the university is trying to have it both ways — to appear concerned about fans’ well being, while also profiting from the publicity of a major athletic achievement.

Bonnie Deem pointed to an e-mail sent to students and alumni on Monday evening advertising photos from the game.

The message, obtained by The Star, comes from the “Tigers Photo Store” of the “Official Athletics Site of the University of Missouri.” It includes an image of thousands of fans on the field after the game, and leaves the impression that the image is available for sale.

But as of Wednesday, no images of fans swarming the field of play were available for sale on the team store site.

“It is the height of hypocrisy that the athletic department is selling photos of these people,” Deem said. “They’re selling photos of people they’re saying are lawbreakers.”

Schaefer noted a similar situation in which an image of the fans on the field was displayed prominently on the University of Missouri homepage earlier this week.

“You’re promoting the university by saying, ‘Be a part of our team,’ ‘Look at what we can do,’ ‘Be a part of this,’ ” he said. “But then you’re prosecuting the people who engage in the activity you’re using for promotion.”
Field rushers' arrests questioned

By Rudi Keller

Photo by Parker Eshelman Law enforcement officers escort fans who rushed onto Faurot Field on Saturday night after Missouri's win over Oklahoma. Out of the thousands who rushed onto the field, 30 were arrested.

Published October 26, 2010 at 3:54 p.m.
Updated October 27, 2010 at 12:45 p.m.
State Sen. Kurt Schaefer’s request that the University of Missouri drop charges against 30 people arrested Saturday for trespassing on Faurot Field won’t stop the citations from being referred to municipal court.

The arrests also are bringing criticism from parents, and the arrested fans are winning support in the form of a Facebook page dedicated to freeing the “Faurot Field 30.” A poster showing the field covered in fans, which was for sale soon after the game on the MU Athletic Department’s website, has been withdrawn.

The university administration, through spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken, said it doesn’t have the power to stop the prosecutions and won’t ask they be dropped. Capt. Brian Weimer of the MU Police Department said the summonses will be delivered to city Prosecutor Stephen Richey and that Richey has the sole discretion on whether to file the cases.

Richey could not be reached for comment today.

Thousands of people poured onto the field after the Homecoming victory over Oklahoma. They brought down the goal posts and carried them downtown. One person suffered a broken leg in the pandemonium.

Officers from MU police, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Boone County Sheriff’s Department arrested 30 people for trespassing. Eight others were arrested in the stadium during the game – four for trespassing elsewhere in the stadium, three for being minors in possession of alcohol and one for public urination, Weimer said.

Schaefer said he wants the charges of trespassing dropped against anyone arrested for going onto the field. He was at the game, he said, but did not go on the field with other fans at the end.

“It gets a little silly,” Schaefer said. “The university needs to make a decision on the disposition of these cases. The people who went onto the field knew they shouldn’t go on the field, but the charges are disproportionate to what the atmosphere, what the circumstances, were.”

The matter is out of the university’s hands, Banken said. The university’s policies are based on the need for safety for fans and players, she said.

“We feel like our plans, our policies are communicated very directly to the fans,” she said. “For coming onto the field after a football game, onto the court after a basketball game or any athletic fields after a game, people will be arrested.”

In addition to being a lawmaker, Schaefer is a lawyer. He used a quote from Athletic Director Mike Alden, printed in the Kansas City Star, that emotions during the game made a rush to the field inevitable and “you just let them come on.” Schaefer said that leaves open the question of whether trespassing actually occurred.

“I think Mike is being reasonable in that regard,” Schaefer said. “I don’t fault the police for doing their job.”
St. Charles resident Donnie Deem said she thinks officers were wrong for arresting her son, Christopher Deem. He will also face an infraction from the Office of Student Conduct.

“I understand Columbia police stopped traffic to allow students carrying the goal post to Harpo’s to cross the street,” she said. “They were stealing property and were obviously on the field, too.”

Deem said her son told her he was on the field celebrating when an officer placed handcuffs on him, took him to the side and later wrote him a summons. “This is traumatic for us,” she said. “My son has never been in trouble. I think this is awful.”

Charles Davis, an associate professor in MU’s School of Journalism, said he, too, was disheartened to see students being “randomly arrested.” That’s why he created a Facebook group called “Free the Faurot Field 30” yesterday, a group that had nearly 100 members this morning.

“I think somebody needs to speak up for these kids,” Davis said. “They were having fun. It was a joyous occasion.”

The poster that has been withdrawn depicted a mass of students running onto Faurot Field. The photos are no longer being sold or promoted on university websites, Banken said.

“We felt the use of such photos is inappropriate,” she said.

Tim Noce, president of the Missouri Students Association, said his group has been involved with talking to administrators about the arrests. Some of those arrested have approached MSA for help, he said, and he expressed opposition to the sale of the posters as well. “We thought that was a double standard,” Noce said. “Profiting off those students getting arrested, we thought that was wrong.”

Tribune reporters Brennan David and Janese Silvey contributed to this report.
Two more arrested in Columbia, Mo., killing

JENNINGS • Two brothers wanted in the weekend shooting death of a man visiting Columbia, Mo., to see his cousin play in the Mizzou-Oklahoma football game were arrested in Jennings.

Daren Peal and Darris Peal of Moberly were arrested on warrants for robbery and second-degree murder and were each held in lieu of a $1 million cash-only bond.

Police believe Daren Peal pulled the trigger in the early Saturday morning shooting of Aaron Hobson, 22, who was in Columbia to see his cousin, University of Missouri defensive back Trey Hobson, play in Saturday's game.

Aaron Hobson was shot during a robbery about 1:15 a.m. at a Break Time convenience store in Columbia, police said.

Already in custody are Tony L. Lewis, 27, of Boonville, and Leo D. Roland, 19, of Columbia, who were arrested Saturday and have been charged with second-degree murder and robbery. Also in custody is Deshon Joseph Houston, 20, of Columbia, who was arrested Sunday and charged with second-degree murder and burglary. Bail for the three men was set at $1 million each.

Police are still looking for a sixth suspect, Anthony J. Carr, who is wanted on suspicion of robbery and second-degree murder.

Authorities ask anyone with information about Carr to call Columbia CrimeStoppers at 1-573-875-8477.

Aaron Hobson graduated from Wichita Heights High School and most recently had lived in the Kansas City suburb of Mission, Kan. A memorial service for Hobson will be at 4 p.m. Friday in Wichita, Kan., where his funeral is scheduled for Saturday.
The costs of selling credit cards on campus

BY MATTHEW HATHAWAY mhathaway@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8121 | Posted: Thursday, October 28, 2010 12:00 am

Plenty of college students and recent graduates are struggling with high credit card debt, but universities and their alumni groups are going to the bank. Literally.

Last year, financial institutions paid more than $83 million to American colleges, alumni groups and related organizations as part of credit card marketing agreements, according to a report released by the Federal Reserve Board this week.

The credit card companies pay schools to access mailing lists of students and alumni, to peddle their cards on campus and to offer marketing tie-ins, like having a university mascot or a leafy campus scene emblazoned on a card.

The biggest payment — more than $3.2 million paid by a Bank of America subsidiary — went to the University of Illinois Alumni Association, according to the report.

The Federal Reserve report contains information about more than 1,000 agreements between credit card issuers and colleges and affiliated groups. The Fed also launched a searchable, online database with additional information, such as the terms of these agreements.

The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 requires credit card companies to supply the Fed with information about the agreements and payments made to schools, as well as those to booster and alumni groups.

The Bank of America subsidiary that paid the windfall to the Illinois alumni group — FIA Card Services — also last year paid $68,093 to Washington University and $83,985 to St. Louis University; as well as $43,425 to a foundation affiliated with Missouri State University, $51,250 to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Alumni Association and $61,976 to the University of Missouri Alumni Association.

U.S. Bank last year paid $25,000 each to alumni groups at the Missouri University of Science and Technology and Northwest Missouri State University. Chase Bank paid $575,065 to an alumni group at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
UM staff pensions at issue

Some say high turnover would be result of plan.

By Janese Silvey

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

A University of Missouri System switch from its current retirement plan to a contribution-based plan for new employees could cause staff turnover to increase, some worry.

That's because a defined contributions plan, much like a 401(k), allows employees to take savings with them if they change jobs. The university's existing benefits plan, on the other hand, requires employees to reach retirement age before fully cashing in on the university's contributions.

"We need to take care of future staff and encourage long-term service," said Diane Bartley, manager of accounting services at MU and chairwoman of the Staff Advisory Council.

Bartley joined about 70 MU staff members in Jesse Wrench Auditorium yesterday to hear about the UM System's retirement plan and the ongoing review of retirement benefits.

Betsy Rodriguez, vice president of human resources, gave the hourlong presentation, assuring existing employees that any change will only affect new hires. A defined contributions plan would be more comparable to what peer institutions offer, she said, noting that young workers prefer the savings package over a benefits plan that requires longevity. Unlike past generations, most entering the work force today do not expect to stay with one employer their entire careers, she said.

The UM Board of Curators is meeting at 10 a.m. Monday to see details of a potential defined contributions plan for new employees. The meeting will be based out of MU's telepresence center at Ellis Library, with an overflow location at the Monsanto Auditorium in the Life Sciences Building. Curators won't vote on any proposed change until the December meeting in St. Louis.

Now, employees are guaranteed retirement benefits totaling 2.3 percent of their salary for every year of employment once they're eligible to retire. What's being considered is a defined contribution plan that requires employees to save a portion of their pay and receive a university match.
Although the current retirement plan is fully funded — meaning the UM System could, in theory, meet all of its liabilities today — it’s risky in the future for the university to continue to take on new liabilities, Rodriguez said.

That’s because the defined benefits plan is based on some long-standing assumptions that have changed over the past few years. For instance, UM needs to see an 8 percent return on its investments to fund the retirement plan, a return that has not materialized in recent years.

Also adding pressure to the current system is the fact more employees are nearing retirement age and that retirees are living longer, Rodriguez said.

Putting new hires into a completely separate retirement plan would cause the cost of the current plan to increase slightly, Rodriguez acknowledged, but added there’s no proposal at this time to increase current employee contributions.

Several staff members yesterday expressed concerns about putting the burden of making investment decisions on young new hires.

Rodriguez agreed the university would be responsible for providing investment education to those employees.

There could be other hidden costs of switching to a savings plan, Bartley said, such as the additional training that would be required if the university sees higher turnover rates.

MU staff members also are concerned about the impact a new retirement plan would have when attracting quality new employees.

Most staff members, Bartley noted, earn less than $50,000, so the pay rate isn’t necessarily a deciding factor when people decide to work for the university.

“Benefits are huge with staff,” she said. “It’s a very important piece of our compensation package.”
High levels of BPA cause sperm problems, study finds

By Liz Szabo, USA TODAY

For the first time, a study in humans suggests that a controversial, estrogen-like chemical in plastic may be related to conditions that reduce men’s fertility.

Men with higher levels of BPA, or bisphenol A, were two to four times more likely than others to have problems with sperm quality and quantity, the study shows.

BISPHENOL A: What to know about ‘everywhere chemical’

In particular, men with high levels of BPA in urine and semen were more likely to have fewer sperm overall, fewer live sperm and poor semen quality. Their sperm also had more problems swimming, according to a study of 514 Chinese workers, published today by doctors from Kaiser Permanente in Fertility and Sterility.

Earlier studies by the same researchers also linked higher BPA levels with sexual functioning problems, such as low libido or impotence, says author De-Kun Li of the Kaiser Foundation Research Institute in Oakland.

Those problems can make men less fertile, says Tracey Woodruff of the University of California-San Francisco. The study has several strengths, Woodruff says. For example, measures such as sperm count provide more solid evidence of BPA’s effects, unlike subjective measures such as men’s rating of their libidos.

The men studied, some of whom worked in factories that exposed them to BPA, had levels that were within the range allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency, Li says. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found BPA — in many plastic bottles, the lining of metal cans and other consumer products — in the urine of more than 90% of Americans.

A growing number of researchers and consumer advocates are concerned about BPA, which acts like the female hormone estrogen and can block male hormones, such as testosterone. It has been shown to cause harm in hundreds of animal studies, including effects on male reproductive organs such as the testes and prostate, says University of Missouri researcher Frederick vom Saal.
Now, studies are beginning to confirm some of the same effects on people, Li says.

The American Chemistry Council, an industry group, says BPA has been safely used for 50 years. "Government agencies worldwide have examined the science on BPA ... and concluded that low doses of BPA are not a risk to human health," says council spokesman Steven Hentges.

The National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences says animal studies link BPA with infertility, weight gain, behavioral changes, early puberty, prostate and breast cancer and diabetes.

The Food and Drug Administration has expressed "some concern" about BPA's effects on the brain, behavior and prostate gland in fetuses, infants and children, although it has not taken steps to reduce the average person's exposure to BPA.
Where Missouri House candidates stand on higher education

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BY Bailey Brewer, Deniz Koray, Mary Daly

COLUMBIA -- Higher education has been taking hard hits lately.

At a Missouri higher education summit in August, Gov. Jay Nixon told representatives from the state's public and private education institutions to prepare for budget cuts. Nixon challenged institutions to become more efficient and do more with less.

University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee told the Board of Curators in September that a tuition increase for the system is inevitable because of a prospective 10 percent funding reduction in higher education. This would break the in-state tuition freeze that has carried through the past two years.

Meanwhile, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education began a study in September to evaluate almost 4,000 public higher education degree programs around the state to determine whether low-producing programs could be eliminated to cut costs.

With all the buzz surrounding higher education, candidates for local seats in the House of Representatives have much to say on the issue. Here's a breakdown for each race:

21st District

Republican John Cauthorn of Mexico recognized the burden of high tuition costs on college students and their families. But he said this "might be a time to be thankful for what we've got at the moment," referring to Missouri's economic standing in relation to some other states.

Cauthorn said if tuition needs to increase to sustain the state's universities and colleges, there would be no way to avoid it. He said someone is going to have to pay for it, whether it be the state or the students.

For this reason, Cauthorn said he supports community colleges as an alternative to the higher cost of residence-based campuses such as MU.

Cauthorn recently met with the president of Moberly Area Community College and said one of his children decided to attend community college to save money. He said it worked out well and noted that he thinks it's an option others might consider.
"It won’t work for everybody," he said. "But it might be a good starting point."

Cauthorn said staying at home is not a popular decision for recent high school graduates who want to experience the freedom of living away from their parents. Still, he said, attending community college cuts the cost of living.

Democratic candidate Kelly Schultz of Shaw said she is committed ensuring MU’s resources remain intact this coming year.

Schultz said that because MU and University Hospital are the top employers of residents of the 21st District, it is important that the state support them. At a forum Wednesday night at the MU Student Center, Schultz also said it would be short-sighted to create jobs if the local workforce lacks the necessary education to compete for them.

Schultz said that when MU educates students, it is “educating the future of our economy.” She said she knows families, including hers, struggle with tuition costs, but she doesn’t support tuition caps.

Schultz said tuition caps cause universities to recruit more students from out of state rather than in state because they will always have to pay more than the in-state cost. She wants MU to focus on educating students from Missouri.

23rd District

Republican Paul Szopa said a good educational system is important to keeping Missouri competitive.

“The quality of the instruction is the number one priority,” Szopa said. “We want the best and brightest educators teaching our students.”

He said if there must be a tuition increase, he would like it on a small scale and would want to see accountable spending on schools’ parts.

“I hate the thought of raising tuition, but if that’s what it has to be, it’ll have to be,” Szopa said.

Szopa said that in order to bring more funding into higher education, the state needs to “get people working and paying into tax revenue.” However, he also said he would make sure taxes aren’t increased, even if it meant budget cuts for higher education.

Incumbent Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, said protecting higher education is important to keeping Missouri students’ education competitive with that of other states.

“That’s certainly a priority,” he said.

Webber wants to see the expansion and modernization of programs that give students more educational opportunities, such as Bright Flight and the A+ Scholarship Program.
He said he is also looking to protect academic freedom for students and professors. He believes professors should be able to carry out research without infringement or financial pressures from the state.

Webber is a law student at MU.

24th District

Incumbent Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, and his challenger, Fifth Ward Councilwoman Laura Nauser, R-Columbia, both believe in keeping funding for higher education at least at current levels. Kelly has said that one of the reasons he decided to run for the House seat in 2008 was the encouragement of friends on the MU faculty who were concerned about dramatic cuts for higher education in the state legislature.

"I sponsored the single biggest funding increase in the budget for the University of Missouri in the 20th century," Kelly said at the forum, referring to his previous 12-year run in the state legislature.

One of his plans to help funding is a bond issue, which would give state voters the option to pass a plan that would enact statewide capital improvements. Kelly said about $700 million would be allocated to higher education, and said one of his primary goals is to finance a new engineering building for MU.

Kelly sponsored a similar bill in the previous two legislative sessions. Although it received bipartisan support and was co-sponsored last year by the House majority leader, Steve Tilley, R-Perryville, it did not pass.

Nauser, who resumed her higher education and graduated from Columbia College in 2004, also stressed the importance of maintaining higher education funding during tough economic times for the state. She said increased educational opportunities and funding for research are critical for long-term economic development.

Nauser said government programs that are not succeeding need to face cuts, and she proposed reallocating their funds to finance higher education.

However, she disagreed with Kelly that government revenue needed to increase in order to maintain current levels of higher education funding. When asked at the forum which programs should be cut from the state budget, she mentioned the possibility of privatizing government programs such as child support enforcement.

Nauser said she is seeking to uphold the wishes of her constituents.

"They believe that taxes are high enough already, and I want to focus on providing core services like roads and education," she said.
While Kelly said it is not feasible to keep higher education funding intact without taxes to increase state revenue, both candidates believed that the success of public universities were integral to the state’s future.